



St. Joseph
County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



Today's Visions for Tomorrow's Future

July/August 2022
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What's Going On...

*Events hosted by the St. Joseph County SWCD
& Our Partners in Conservation*



July

1st-9th - St. Joseph County
4-H Fair

4th - **Independence Day** -
Office Closed

19th - **July Board Meeting** -
7:00 pm, Centre Township
Branch of the St. Joseph
County Public Library, 1150
Kern Rd., South Bend

27th - **CISMA Meeting** -
Location and time TBA

August

16th - **August Board
Meeting** - 7:00 pm, Centre
Township Branch of the St.
Joseph County Public
Library, 1150 Kern Rd.,
South Bend

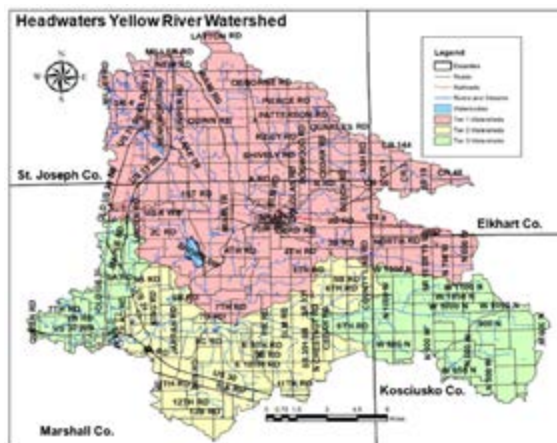
Have You Heard? ...

Conservation Funding Opportunities

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District has funds available to cost-share practices that improve soil health and water quality. The Headwaters Yellow River Cost-Share Program is a watershed specific (shown below) 319 grant and covers many water quality focused practices. There is funding available for cover crops, filter strips, equipment modification (for conservation tillage, cover crops, strip cropping, and/or precision nutrient application), grassed waterways, stream bank and shoreline protection, two stage ditches, several livestock and riparian practices and more. Applications will be taken continuously and ranked periodically until funds are depleted.



No-till corn into terminated cover crop



319 Grant coverage area

Additionally the St. Joseph County SWCD has funds available through a Clean Water Indiana grant specifically for cover crops, filter strips, no-till, and pollinator habitat. These practices not only improve soil health and water quality but also sequester carbon and other greenhouse gasses improving air quality and helping mitigate climate change.

For more information on either of these cost-share programs or to get an application please contact our office at 574-936-2024 ext. 4 or email us at info@stjosephswcd.org.

NRCS Energy Efficiency Practices

With the price of gas on the rise don't forget that the NRCS can help cut input costs on your farms by implementing conservation practices that provide energy efficiency benefits while also helping maintain production, protect soil and water resources, and reduce the nation's dependence on fossil fuels.



Many local energy companies and co-ops promote energy audits. NRCS offers funding for Ag Energy Management Plan, Ag Energy Design Plan and potential cost-share with Lighting System Improvement, Building Envelope Improvement and Farmstead Energy Improvement.

Other Practices which could reduce your input costs include:

- *Prescribed Grazing
- *Integrated Pest Management
- *Irrigation Water Management
- *Crop Residue Management
- *Windbreaks/Shelterbelts
- *Precision Agriculture
- *Nutrient Management
- *Energy Conservation in Confined Animal Operations

For more information on these or any other USDA conservation programs, contact the NRCS/SWCD office at 574-936-2024 ext. 4 or email us at info@stjosephswcd.org



Have You Seen Me?



*** Warning: All parts of this plant are poisonous to both animals and humans. Use caution when managing this plant**

This time of year Poison Hemlock can be seen blooming all over. Please read the following information from Purdue Extension and the Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Description: A native of Europe, poison hemlock was introduced to North America as a garden/ornamental plant. Poison hemlock is a member of the Apiaceae (parsley) family. It has a biennial growth pattern, being a low-lying rosette the first year and bolting to 3-10 feet the second year. The stems are stout, smooth, with distinctive purple spotting. Flowers are small, white and found in umbrella-shaped clusters in early summer (June/July). The fern-like leaves are pinnately compound and arranged alternately on the stem. The plant reproduces prolifically via

seeds that are flattened and ribbed. Seeds mature in August/September and are easily spread via mowing/agricultural equipment. It may be confused with wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace) or wild cow parsnip, both of which have white umbrella-shape flower clusters. Wild carrot has a hairy stem, while cow parsnip has a ribbed stem. Neither have purple spotting.

Impact/ Distribution: Poison hemlock contains highly poisonous alkaloid compounds that can be fatal to humans and livestock. Poison hemlock easily invades disturbed/early successional sites and is typically found along roads, streams, trails, ditches, forest edges and waste areas.

Management: Poison hemlock spreads via seed, so effective management must prevent new seed production, prevent spread of existing seed, and exhaust the existing seed supply in the soil seed bank.

Prevention: Poison hemlock seed often is inadvertently spread by mowing, road maintenance or agricultural equipment. Mow infested areas along roadsides, ditch banks and field edges before seed matures. Poison hemlock seed maturation may vary from year-to-year depending on weather patterns. In southern Indiana, mowing should occur from April through early to mid-July. Avoid working, recreating in or walking or driving through infested areas during seed dispersal periods. Also, clean clothing, shoes, ATVs or vehicles following activity in infested areas.

If you would like to read the entire publication including specific management recommendations contact our office or find it online here: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/fnr/fnr-437-w.pdf>

SWCD May and June Events

Near the end of April, the SWCD had the opportunity to partner with the St. Joseph County Parks for their event, Girls Ambitious About Learning Science (GALS). It was a great day for everyone to learn about watersheds and the importance of keeping our watersheds clean and free of pollutants



The SWCD was also able to participate in the rescheduled event, Science Alive!, on Saturday, May 21st. Families were able to learn about the St. Joseph River Watershed, interact with our Augmented Reality Sandbox, and spin a wheel of environmental topics to answer a question and win a prize.

In June, the SWCD partnered with Unity Gardens to do an Urban Conservation Series. Each week, an expert came to Unity Gardens to do a presentation on different environmental topics. We would like to thank Jamie Perry, Regional Urban Soil Health Specialist for Northeast Area, Jessica Merklng, Urban Wildlife Biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), and Mandi Glanz, Regional Specialist serving Northwest Indiana for State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), for their help in making these programs possible.

We wrapped up the academic school year by doing programs with the area schools. Programs included Watersheds, Indiana Wildlife, Invasive Species, and Pollinators!

SWCD Educational Programs for Schools

Attention Teachers and Educators!

Now is the perfect time to start scheduling environmental education programs for the 2022-2023 school year! We offer educational programming on different topics for K-12 schools and colleges/universities.

Our topics include, but are not limited to: Watersheds, Soils, Composting, Pollinators, Indiana Wildlife, Indiana Habitats, Invasive Species, Backyard Conservation, and more!

In addition to our programs, we also offer the following services:

- eLearning Resources
- Outreach & Classroom Programs
- Series Of Lessons
- Curriculum Development
- Establishing or Maintaining Outdoor Labs
- Environmental Field Trips
- Special Events
- Adult Programs
- Loaning of Resources
- Workshops



For more information or to request a program, please go to <https://www.stjosephswcd.org/education> or contact our Environmental Education Coordinator, Ally Pudlo, by email at Allison.pudlo@in.nacdn.net or by phone at 574-936-2024 ext. 4.



Visit us on Facebook 2903 GARY DRIVE PLYMOUTH IN 46563

St. Joseph County Soil And Water Conservation Partnership

SMIPP-CISMA forming in St. Joseph and Marshall Counties

Do you want to learn more about the Invasive Species that are in your backyard? Are you a landowner in St. Joseph or Marshall County? Then, you join the local CISMA group that is forming!

The St. Joseph and Marshall Counties Invasive Plant Partnership, or SMIPP, is a forming cooperative invasive species management area. A CISMA is a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals, and various interested groups that manage invasive species in a defined area. Local CISMA groups help to provide resources and information on a community level, to improve control efforts, to secure funding opportunities for invasive removal, and more. SMIPP's mission statement is to build partnerships to promote native plants and wildlife through education and management of invasive species in St. Joseph and Marshall Counties.

SMIPP is currently looking for community members who would be interested in being a part of their steering committee. The role of the steering committee is to govern the decisions and directions of SMIPP, including having the ability/opportunity to vote on group decisions, helping organize/plan outreach events, looking for sources of funding, getting extra hands-on training for invasive management, and more. The SMIPP will be hosting a meeting for interested community members who would like to learn more about the group on Wednesday, July 27th. Time and location will be announced closer to the date.

If you have any questions, please contact Ally Pudlo at 574-936-2024 ext.4 or at Allison.pudlo@in.nacdnet.net, or Jodie Overmyer at 574-936-2024 ext. 3 or at Jodie.overmyer@in.nacdnet.net.

Are you ready to "GO GREEN" and help us save money and natural resources? We can deliver your "Conservation Kaleidoscope" newsletter by email ... Give us a call or send us an email and tell us you'd like to "GO GREEN" THANK YOU!!!!



Scan me to go Green!

SWCD Supervisors:

John Dooms, Chairman
Dave Vandewalle, Vice Chairman
Marty Lappin
Sam James
Chris Matthys

SWCD Associate Supervisors:

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Chuck Lehman
Randy Matthys
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